



What You Need to Know About...

A Gender Diverse Book List



The only important thing in a book is the meaning it has for you.

- W. Somerset Maugham



Our intention for this document is to provide suggestions for reading material to students and professionals regarding gender and gender expression. All of the listed materials are available in your school or in the Professional Library of the Learning Resource Centre (LRC).

Please see the legend below for direction in terms of appropriate readership and availability.

Legend PJ Primary/Junior INT Intermediate S Secondary PROF Professionals

To sign out resources from the LRC: * Go to <https://medianet.kprdsb.ca> * Sign in

10,000 Dresses by Marcus Ewert PJ

Every night, Bailey dreams about magical dresses: dresses made of crystals and rainbows, dresses made of flowers, dresses made of windows. . . But when Bailey's awake, no one wants to hear about these beautiful dreams. Then Bailey meets Laurel, an older girl who is inspired by Bailey's imagination and courage. In friendship, the two of them begin making dresses together. . . and Bailey's dreams come true.

Are You a Boy or a Girl? by Karleen Pendleton Jimenez PJ

Kids spend a lot of time debating with each other over what makes a boy a boy and what makes a girl a girl. It's a time of choices. It's a time of creating themselves. It could be a time for blending and embracing the many ways they express themselves, but is too often a time of narrowing the possibilities of who they can be.

I am Jazz by Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings PJ

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boy's clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who diagnosed her as transgender and explained that she was born this way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience and she tells it in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers.

In My Heart: A Book of Feelings by Jo Witek PJ

This vibrant and interactive book is an excellent choice for young readers who have complex and developing feelings about themselves and the world around them. At the turn of each page, different feelings are described to the reader using accessible and descriptive language. If you know a child who may be having difficulty naming or expressing their feelings, this book can be a great tool.

Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress by Christine Baldacchino PJ

Morris has a great imagination. He paints amazing pictures and he loves his classroom's dress-up centre, especially the tangerine dress. It reminds him of his mother's hair. Christine Baldacchino's sweetly told story about the courage and creativity it takes to be different is complemented by Isabelle Malenfant's warm illustrations that perfectly capture Morris' vulnerability and the vibrancy of his imagination.

My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis PJ

My Princess Boy is a nonfiction picture book about acceptance. "I wrote the story to give children and adults a tool to talk about unconditional friendship. When I feared my young son would be teased or bullied for wearing a dress to school, I spoke with his preschool teacher. She shared my fear with others, and a plan was put in place to support him and others who express themselves differently. In light of the many unthinkable outcomes of bullying, discussion about acceptance can help our world get back to the basics – compassion."

Not all Princesses Dress in Pink by Jane Yolen &

Heidi Yolen Stemple 

Princesses come in all kinds. Exuberant text paired with charming illustrations prove that girls can jump in mud puddles and climb trees, play sports and make messes—all while wearing their tiaras! Not every girl has a passion for pink, but all young ladies will love this empowering affirmation of their importance and unlimited potential.

Sex Is a Funny Word by Cory Silverberg

“This is a very different book about sex and gender. Sex education is about more than science and the so-called facts of life. I believe the most important part of sex education is exploring and sharing our feelings, values and beliefs, and helping kids connect what they learn to their communities, histories, families and cultures. That’s what this book allows you to do. We’ve provided the framework and basic information about bodies, gender, and touch, and we’ve left blanks that only you and the kids in your life can fill in.”

Beyond Magenta by Susan Kuklin

Beyond Magenta is an excellent read for young trans* and gender non-conforming youth who may want to see that there are other people going through similar experiences, and that expression of feelings and self-representation are possible in the journey of coming out. “Six unwaveringly honest young adults tell what it is like for them to be members of the transgender community.”

Rethinking Normal: A Memoir in Transition by Katie Rain Hill

  

In her unique, generous, and affecting voice, nineteen-year-old Katie Rain Hill shares her personal journey of undergoing gender reassignment. Now comes with a reading group guide! Katie Rain Hill realized very young that a serious mistake had been made; she was a girl who had been born in the body of a boy. Suffocating under her peers’ bullying and the mounting pressure to be “normal,” Katie tried to take her life at the age of eight years old. After several other failed attempts, she finally understood that “Katie”—the girl trapped within her—was determined to live.

Transgender 101: A Simple Guide to a Complex Issue by Nicholas

M. Teich   

Written by a social worker, popular educator, and member of the transgender community, this well-rounded resource combines an accessible portrait of transgenderism with a rich history of transgender life and its unique experiences of discrimination. Featuring men who become women, women who become men, and those who live in between and beyond traditional classifications, this book is written for students, professionals, friends and family members.

Parrotfish by Ellen Wittlinger

Angela Katz- McNair has never felt quite right as a girl, so she decides to live as Grady, a guy. While coming out as transgender feels right to Grady, he isn’t prepared for the reactions of his friends and family. From acclaimed author Ellen Wittlinger, this ground-breaking novel was one of the first of its kind about a transgender teen’s search for identity and acceptance.

Some Assembly Required by Arin Andrews

In this first-of-its-kind memoir, Arin Andrews details the journey that led him to make the life-transforming decision to undergo gender reassignment as a high school junior. *Some Assembly Required* is a true coming-of-age story about knocking down obstacles and embracing family, friendship and first love. But more than that, it is a reminder that self-acceptance does not come ready-made with a manual and spare parts. Rather, some assembly is always required.

Helping Your Transgender Teen: A Guide for Parents

by Irwin Krieger 

Helping Your Transgender Teen begins with the basic information you and your family need. The central chapters of the book address the fears and concerns most parents of transgender teens share. The final chapters guide you through the steps you can take to discover what is best for your child. Although written for parents, this book is also useful for pediatricians, therapists, educators and others who work with teenagers and young adults. *Helping Your Transgender Teen* provides answers to many of your questions about adolescent gender identity.

Supporting Transgender and Gender Creative Youth: Schools, Families, and Communities in Action by Elizabeth J Meyer and

Annie Pullen Sansfacon 

Supporting Transgender and Gender Creative Youth brings together cutting-edge research, social action methods, and theory on the topic of transgender youth and gender creative children. Organized in three sections covering theoretical and clinical, educational, and community perspectives, the chapters specifically address issues and challenges in education, social work, medicine, and counseling as well as recommendations that are relevant for parents, families, practitioners and educators alike. The result is a well-researched and accessible book that will provide support and knowledge to a broad audience of individuals invested in improving the social worlds of gender diverse children and youth.

Do you have a book suggestion? Send us recommendations at equity_diversity@kprdsb.ca.